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NWT Bureau of Statistics

Released: April 7, 2017

Monthly Labour Force Activity
– March 2017-

Overview

The employment rate in the Northwest Territories was 66.0% in March, up from 65.3% in February. Out of 32,400 residents 15 years of age and older, 21,400 were employed, an increase of 300 persons from the previous month. Employment increases from last month were concentrated in full-time positions, among males and persons aged 25 and over.

Figure 1: Labour Force Statistics - Northwest Territories

Population 15 & over - 32,400		
Labour Force - 22,900 Participation Rate 70.7%		**Not in Labour Force - 9,400**
Employed - 21,400 Employment Rate 66.0%	**Unemployed - 1,600** Unemployment rate 7.0%	

Compared to this time last year, there were 1,000 fewer people employed in the NWT. Most of the job losses were in full-time positions.

Employment rates during the first three months of 2017 stayed below 67%, making them the lowest in seven years for this period of the year.

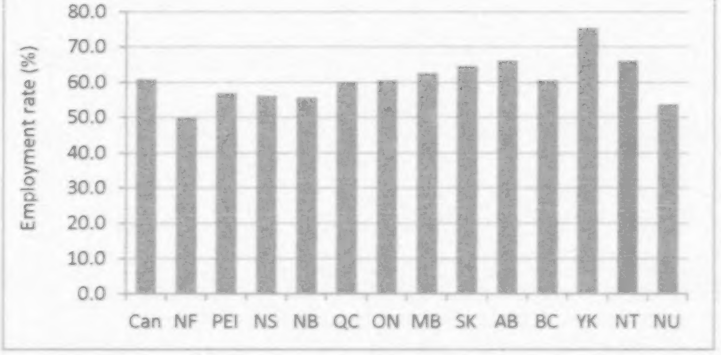
Year-over-year, unemployment dropped by 200 persons to 1,600 in March 2017. Consequently, the unemployment rate dropped 0.4 percentage points to 7.0% during the same period.

National highlights

Nationally, Canada's monthly employment rate dropped to 60.9%. Yukon (73.9%) had the highest employment rate followed by the Northwest Territories and Alberta, both at 66.0%.

The NWT's unemployment rate was unchanged from last month, and stayed seventh highest in the country at 7.0%.

Figure 2: Employment rates, Canada, provinces & territories, March 2017



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Employment by key characteristics

Table 1 gives month-over-month and year-over-year comparisons of employment levels and employment rates by key characteristics. In March 2017, the overall employment for most of the key characteristics was lower than the previous year. The exceptions were for Aboriginal persons where employment increased slightly, and for persons living outside of Yellowknife where employment levels were unchanged from last year.

In March 2017, 500 more females than males were employed. This is a change from 12 months ago when employment levels were the same for males and females. This change was a result of higher year-over-year job losses among males than females.

Table 1: Employment & Employment Rates by Key Characteristics, NWT

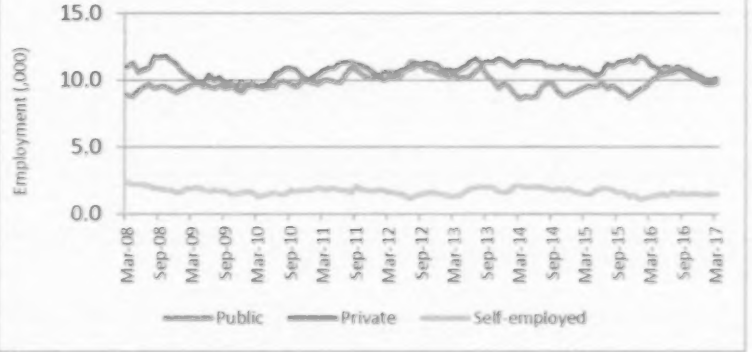
	Mar-17		Feb-17		Mar-16		Employment change from	
	Employed (Persons)	Employment Rate (%)	Employed (Persons)	Employment Rate (%)	Employed (Persons)	Employment Rate (%)	1 Month ago	1 Yr. ago
Northwest Territories	21,400	66.0	21,100	65.3	22,400	69.3	300	(1,000)
15-24 Yrs.	2,200	38.6	2,300	40.4	2,600	44.1	(100)	(400)
25+ Yrs.	19,200	71.9	18,900	71.1	19,900	75.4	300	(700)
Males	10,400	64.2	10,100	62.3	11,200	69.1	300	(800)
Females	10,900	67.7	11,000	68.3	11,200	69.6	(100)	(300)
Aboriginal	8,500	52.5	8,500	52.5	8,400	56.8	0	100
Non-Aboriginal	12,900	79.6	12,700	78.4	14,000	80.5	200	(1,100)
Yellowknife	11,100	76.0	11,000	74.8	12,200	79.2	100	(1,100)
Other	10,200	57.6	10,100	57.1	10,200	60.4	100	0

Employment by industry

The decline by 1,300 in private sector employment between March 2016 and March 2017 more than off-set marginal gains in public sector (+100) and in self-employment (+200).

Private sector employment has stayed below public sector employment for 11 consecutive months to March 2017. The previous longest stretch lasted three months back in 2001.

Figure 3: Employment by class of worker, NWT, March 2008 - March 2017



Historical labour force activity

Table 2: Labour Force Activity -Northwest Territories

	Population 15 & Over	Labour Force	Employed	Unem-ployed	Not in the Labour Force	Partic-ipation Rate	Unemp-loyment Rate	Employ-ment Rate
Mar-17	32,400	22,900	21,400	1,600	9,400	70.7	7.0	66.0
Feb-17	32,300	22,800	21,100	1,600	9,600	70.6	7.0	65.3
Jan-17	32,400	22,700	21,100	1,600	9,600	70.1	7.0	65.1
Dec-16	32,400	23,400	21,800	1,600	9,000	72.2	6.8	67.3
Nov-16	32,500	23,700	22,100	1,600	8,800	72.9	6.8	68.0
Oct-16	32,600	24,400	22,700	1,700	8,200	74.8	7.0	69.6
Sep-16	32,600	24,500	22,900	1,600	8,100	75.2	6.5	70.2
Aug-16	32,700	25,300	23,400	1,900	7,400	77.4	7.5	71.6
Jul-16	32,600	25,100	23,100	2,100	7,500	77.0	8.4	70.9
Jun-16	32,600	24,900	22,900	2,000	7,600	76.4	8.0	70.2
May-16	32,500	24,600	22,900	1,700	7,900	75.7	6.9	70.5
Apr-16	32,400	24,100	22,500	1,600	8,200	74.4	6.6	69.4
Previous Years:								
Mar-16	32,300	24,200	22,400	1,800	8,000	74.9	7.4	69.3
Mar-15	32,200	23,600	21,700	1,900	8,500	73.3	8.1	67.4
Mar-14	32,500	24,000	22,100	1,800	8,500	73.8	7.5	68.0
Mar-13	32,600	24,300	22,400	1,900	8,300	74.5	7.8	68.7
Mar-12	32,300	24,500	22,400	2,100	7,800	75.9	8.6	69.3
Mar-11	32,100	23,900	22,400	1,500	8,200	74.5	6.3	69.8
Mar-10	31,900	22,100	20,300	1,800	9,800	69.3	8.1	63.6
Mar-09	31,700	22,700	21,700	1,100	9,000	71.6	4.8	68.5
Mar-08	31,800	23,800	22,300	1,500	7,900	74.8	6.3	70.1
Mar-07	31,400	24,700	23,700	1,000	6,700	78.7	4.0	75.5

Information on the territorial labour market is a result of the extension of Statistics Canada's national labour force survey (LFS) to the Northwest Territories. Data presented for the Northwest Territories is based on three-month moving averages, with survey counts rounded to the nearest 100 persons.

For additional information on the monthly release of labour force survey results for the Northwest Territories, visit the NWT Bureau of Statistics website at http://www.statsnwt.ca/ or call (867) 767-9169.

Next Release: May 5, 2017